

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 888

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Thomas H. Bilbrey of Red Boiling Springs.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Thomas H. Bilbrey, an exemplary gentleman and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the son of a carpenter who could only write his name, Mr. Bilbrey grew up in the home his father built; his mother instilled in him a strong work ethic and the importance of an education; and

WHEREAS, Tom Bilbrey graduated as valedictorian of his class in 1973 from Red Boiling Springs High School and was in the top ten percent of his class at Middle Tennessee State University; he received his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University; and

WHEREAS, he began his law practice at Frank Farrar's office in Lafayette and remained in private practice for many years until he went to work for the public defender's office, where he served for more than twenty-three years; and

WHEREAS, a man of many interests, Mr. Bilbrey loved spending time on his farm and raising cattle, reading and collecting books, and reading and studying his Bible daily; he loved literature, music, and the arts, as well as discussing politics. He was an avid pipe smoker and had collected an assortment of pipes and tobacco, and he was also a member of several pipe smoking groups; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bilbrey spent many years coaching Little League Baseball and Tee Ball; he also served as president of Red Boiling Springs Little League; and

WHEREAS, the greatest love Tom Bilbrey had was for his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; he began his ministry in April 1997 at the Whitleyville Church of Christ and served with their congregation for many years; he delivered his last sermon on December 19, 2021, prior to falling ill; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bilbrey married the love of his life, Lynne Marlow, on January 1, 1981; they shared forty-one years of marriage, and to their union were born three children, Desire' Marshall, Hank Bilbrey, and Samuel Bilbrey; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife and children, he is survived by his grandchildren, Isaac Marshall, Kennedy Marshall, Landon Bilbrey, Gracie Bilbrey, Eli Bilbrey, and Colton Bilbrey; and his special buddy, Kamryn Lutes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bilbrey leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Thomas H. Bilbrey, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Bilbrey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.